



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **COLUMBIA MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSING METH CHEMICAL**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for possessing a chemical used to manufacture methamphetamine.

**Aaron W. Hess**, 39, of Columbia, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to 10 years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 24, 2003, **Hess** pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting another person to possess pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine. **Hess** was arrested on Aug. 31, 2003, Graves said, while attempting to steal pseudoephedrine from a Wal-Mart store in Independence, Mo.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark. It was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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